the transportation of material and heavy guns will shortly be overcome, and further action will be guided altogether by military considerations.

GENERAL MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE STORMING OF NUITS-SIX THOUSAND PRIS-ONERS CAPTURED-FURTHER PRUSSIAN SUC-CESSES-THE FRENCH COASTING TRADE OPENED TO NEUTRALS.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1870.

The French forces attacked by Gen. Werder at Nuits were in large numbers, and held a strong position. The Germans captured 6,000 prisoners, together with the town. The French were pursued southward on Monday. Prince William of Baden was wounded in the check. Gen. Glumner was also wounded. A French force, 10,000 strong, has been defeated at Poislay and Fontenelle.

The Prassians yesterday threatened Chateau-Renault, 15 miles north-west of Tours.

A decree has been issued opening the French coasting trade to all nations. It is probably due to the obstruction of railways, especially in North-

It is thought in Berlin and Frankfort that the peace basis proposed by neutrals, with some amendments, will probably soon be adopted.

THE LUXEMBURG QUESTION.

PRUSSIA SAID TO BE READY TO SUBMIT HER COMPLAINTS TO ARBITRATION-THE KING OF HOLLAND READY TO DEFEND THE GRAND DUCHY.

The Kreuz Zeitung denies that Prussia has any designs upon Luxemburg, and affirms that Prussia has resolved to submit to arbitration her complaints relative to the violation of neutrality by the Government of the Duchy, with a view to a claim for

The King of Holland, in a letter to the Govern ment of Luxemburg, says: "Let us together defend the treaty of 1867, and the honor and independence of the Duchy."

The Belgian Government declines to publish Count Ven Bismarck's note or answer thereto before the latter reaches King William.

LACK OF DISCIPLINE IN THE PARIS ARMY. The following significant order has lately

been issued by Gen. Trochu, commanding in Paris:
A succession of facts of a yery serious nature has convinced the Governor of Paris that the principles which eyes, and the Government has learnt, with

THE EPENCH HIDING IN WINE CAVES.

A correspondent of The London Times writing from the headquarters of the Twelfth Royal Saxon Corps at Le Galant, describes a singular expedient of the French to hide themselves from the Germans: "In the forencon I was at Claye, a village about four miles from here on I was at Caye, a village about four fines a roan face of the road to Meaux, on the Marne. A fortnight ago there were only about a dozen French people there. The Ger-man troops had the whole place to themselves, with the exception of a house or two occupied by French inlabi-tants who had fled, but returned agoin. Great was my exception of a house or two occupied by French imhabitants who had fled, but returned again. Great was my surprise yesteriny, to see several French men, women and children, in the long street which constitutes the village. Os impuly I found there were no fewer than 120 of all such persons, the number having inscassed from 30 since saturday last. Where had all those 150 people been when not one of them was to be seen at Claye I Had they fled to Paris! That had been the supposition; but it was erroneous. They, or most of them, had been hidden in the bowels of the earth. They had never left the parish of Glaye at all. They had concealed themselves underground, and have come to the surface again within the last tew days. It is believed that many others are still in regions beneath, and thely gradual resurrection is expected. There are innocuse wine caves around Claye, some of them constructed at a considerable depth below the surface; into these the terrified villagers had descended with their household gods, and there they have been lying concealed while the enemy has occupied the houses and states and gardens above. It is not likely that the whole population of Claye disposed of itself in this manner, but numbers of those who have reappeared in the village have confessed to subterranean places of concealment, and property has been found in a cave, the existence of which and never been suspecially the German troops. The occurrences of Claye have made us all very doubtful as to whether the discred mansions in which we were quartered may not all at night be visited by the rightful proprietors. If we there is no seen the property and much consideration for our peace. But hew they have kept their patience while hearing the runseckure of their was celars, if they have been underseath; we wonderful. It can be necounted for only by their fear of being caught out at night without the password.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

GERMANY.

KING WILLIAM ACCEPTS THE TITLE OF EMPEROR -OPTINING OF THE WURTEMBERG CHAMBERS.

BERLIN, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 18:0. King William of Prassia has received at Versailles the address from the Reichstag. In a speech in reply thereto delivered to the delegation of that body, the King returned his thanks for the supplies voted for the prosecution of the war, which has secured a national unity, and signified his acceptance of the dignity of Emperor tendered by the unanimous voice of the princes, the free towns, and the German nation.
The King of Wärtemberg opened the Chambers yester

day. In his speech, he referred to the glorious successes of the Germans. Their companionship in arms had kindled a desire for political unity, failing which the historic events of the year lack consecration. He urges the deputies to recognize in the Federal treaties lately concluded scope for the development of the nation and her institutions. A bill will be introduced at once, authorizing the present taxation to further war measurements

rres, and for the completion of railways.

The Diet of Mecklenburg has voted to pay its full share of the amount required for the abelition of the Scheldt

EUROPEAN ISSUES.

THE DOOMED CAPITAL.

THE SCARCITY OF FOOD—FRESH MEAT ALMOST EXHAUSTED—ANOTHER SORTIE CONTEMPLATED—IF UNSUCCESSFUL, DUCROT AND PAYER TO DESERT THE CITY—TROCHU WILL REMAIN UNTIL AFTER THE SURRENDER.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1870.

A correspondent writing from Paris on the 12th inst. says: "We have arrived at starvation point. The supply of meat will last but a few days longer. To save fuel, many of the inhabitants remain in bed all day. If it had been properly timed, Ducrot's sortie might have succeeded. In the event of the failure of the next sortie, Ducrot, Pave, and others of the fovernment, will leave Paris by balloon, to prosecute the war in the Provinces. Trocha will remain until the surrender of the city. A special dispatch from Frankfort says that a month's time will be required to render the bombardment of Paris possible. The grans in use in the German army at present are utterly worthless for such a purpose, and besides that, Versailles itself is nearly within range of the French guns.

The Cross Gatefie of Berlin says the difficulties in the transportation of material and heavy guns will shortly be overcome, and further action will be recommend over the army, is sure to weld the various flates, as well as criminal and committed the central Government and Parlament. To the tendent of the central Government and Parlament. To the tendent of the central Government and Parlament. To the two the remodeled Counch in a critical flate, and in the classification on the right of forming private societies and on the libert increased, as, indeed, the limits of the further energy and to the control of the Confederace, and the private of the Confederace, and central to the Confederace, and the privation have reported to the size and innuity of the control of the confederace of the preparation of the right of the Press, and every the forming private societies and on the libert increased, as, indeed, the limits of the further of the confederace, and the private and the private of the confederace, an

To seeure, however, the main points of unity against even the possibility of a change in the wrong direction. Prussia retains the right she already possesses of vetoling any modification of the military and naval arrangements, and, which is a remarkable progress, acquires the same right with regard to the tariff and excise. This renders her mistress of the Federal finances, and, together with her command over the army; is sure to weld the various States together into a solid whole. By way of counter-concession to the Southern States, she has voluntarily divested herself of her present privilege of declaring war in the name of the Confederacy without the sanction of the Federal Council. Except in case of attack by a foreign foe, when she may act without consulting her allies, doclarations of war in future will proceed, not from Prussia, but from the Council that represents the Deutscher Bund. Two more important concessions have to be recorded. Three-fourths of the votes of the Federal Council, instead of two-thirds, as hitherto, will be required for any alteration in the Constitution—a provision which, as every coming change is sure to strengthen unity at the expense of the local Governments, is clearly in favor of the mimor dynastics. Again, in each of the special committees of the Federal Council, which have to prepare the laws and superintent the different branches of the Administration, four minor States, instead of two, as formerly, will be represented in addition to Prussia. Other points are of minor importance. Baden, Bavaria, and most probably, also, Wintemberg, as they retain the legislation on the beer and spirit excise—a matter of the greatest moment to the Southern Exchequence which rely principally upon the creature wants of the subject—will not vote on these points in the Federal Council. A privileged position has been accorded to Bavaria in military matters, which heaves her the exclusive organization and direction of her own army in time of peace; but the opposite policy is followed by Baden, who

ENGLAND.

RESIGNATION OF JOHN BRIGHT FROM THE CAB-INET—GEN. GRANT'S MESSAGE IN ENGLAND— NEWSPAPER CRITICISMS.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1870. John Bright has resigned the Presidency of the Board of Trade.

The full text of President Grant's annual message was published here to-day for the first time. The Times, in its omments, says if the President expects England to take the initiative for reopening negotiations on the Alabama question, he will be disappointed. It was the Americans who rejected the last settlement, and that settlement was framed at Washington.

The Munchester Post, in an editorial on the Alabama claims, refers to the services to the United States at the British Court of Charles Francis Adams and Reverdy Johnson, and says the present attitude of America is condemned by the record of her own Ministers.

REVOLUTIONISTS DEFEATED-THE PRESIDENTIAL

Mexico, Dec. 11 .- The Government has been successful in its operations against the revolution-ists in Guerrero, and the legislature of Oaxaca has ists in Guerrero, and the legislature of Oaxaca has granted extraordinary powers to the Governor in his efforts to repress the Tehuantepec revolutionists.

The election for President and Congress will test the strength of the Tehada and Diaz parties. The adherents of Tehada, it is believed, will win, more especially as the Juarists are divided. The votes in the contest for President are confined to Juarez, Diaz, and Tehada. The last named, it is thought, has the best chance of success.

Congress has voted to permit the reëstablishment of lofferies in the several districts of Mexico and Lower California, and has passed a bill authorizing the construction of the Tuxpan Railrond.

MISCELLANEOUS CAPLE DISPATCHES.

. It is expected that Spain will presently duce a tobacco loan in the London market.Germany is suffering from scarcity of coal. Work in many of the mines has ceased, the miners having been drafted in the army.

....An American naval captain is at Constantinople manufacturing torpedoes and other ma-terial of war for the Turkish Government. ... Commodore Ashbury of the yacht Cam-bria was cothosiastically received on his arrival at Liv-er pool, and a banquet was given in his honor.

AMERICANS MURDERED IN HONDURAS. Gen. Torbert, U. S. Minister at San Salvador, State of Honduras and Salvador, has written a letter to Mrs. Dr. Ledyard of Ceres, Allegany County, N. Y., detailing the brutal assassination of her husband, Dr. T. C. Ledyard, and her brother, Mr. Robert N. Bell, both of Ledyard, and her brother, Mr. Robert N. Bell, both of whom were traveling through the country, pursuing the profession of dentistry. Early in October the two men started from Sachitato, Salvador, with a servant, who, it seems, deliberately planned the murder and robbery before starting out with his employers. The servant, Gulves, impudently returned to Sachitato, and reported the gentlemen safe at Santa Rosa, their destination. After the finding of the bedies, he was arrested, but was permitted to e-cape. Gen. Torbert is, however, following up the matter.

THE RAILEOAD CONVENTION.

ERIE, Pa., Dec. 20 .- To-night the Convention resumed its sessions for business. It is understood that the "pooling" project has been abandoned, and efforts are making to settle upon a freight and passenger tariff which will prove satisfactory to all concerned. Everything thus far has been harmonious. It is believed that the Erie and Pennsylvania Central Companies are acting in concert, but nothing of a definite nature will be made known until the Convention dis-solves, which will be on Thursday or Friday.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORD.

The following is an official report by the Signal Service (United States Army), Division of Telegrams and Reports, for the Benefit of Commerce. This report is sent simultaneously from all the places named, at 11:35 p. m., Washington time:

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Chercation.	Baruta.	Ther.	Wind.	Hour.	ary. ft.	Wind.	Weather.
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t bleage, til	4 4 4	200	N.	25	5.00		k. Falr.
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Washington, D.	90.50	357	8. W.	4	.01	Gentle	
New York	40 50 T	440	N. E.	12	.75	Briek.	
New-York	4.75.29	19.00	N 11	4	.63	Gentle.	CTdy.

THE NEW GERMAN BUND.

The Berlin correspondent of The London fine gives the following analysis of the Constitution of the new German Empire: The Constitution of the North German Confederacy, as well as that of the German Conland was plainly visible.

The amount required for the apoint of the Scheldt Wax Modern and Papertain and Papertai

WASHINGTON.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FUNDING BILL-DEBATE IN THE SENATE ON THE SAN DOMINGO QUESTION—BUTLER'S AMNESTY BILL BEFORE THE HOUSE—PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKRUPT LAW-EXPERIMENTS WITH THE GATTLING GUN.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE! WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1870. In the Senate, to-day, Mr. Sherman reported from the Finance Committee, in accordance with Secretary Boutwell's recommendation, a bill to authorize the issue of \$300,000,000 more of the new five per cent bonds. There was some discussion over the House bill to amend the Tax law on the subject of sugars. There is some opposi Baltimore sugar importing houses, which are most effected, but not withstanding the exertions of the Maryland Senators, the bill will certainly pass. An extended debate took place on the San Domingo matter, in connection with Mr. Morton's resolution for the appointment of a commission to visit the Island. Mr. Sumner led the opposition to the resolution, and debate at times was quite spirited. The Democratic Senators who spoke attacked the President fiercely for his continued "persistence," as they styled it, in endeavoring to force through his pet scheme for annexation. Mr. Sumner was several times called to order by Mr. Morton, and more than once, in the excitement of the discussion, the secrets of executive session were on the point of being disclosed. Such votes as were taken, to-day, seemed to indicate very clearly that a large majority of the Senate which, it was contended by those who opposed it, would necessitate its immediate admission as an equal State. When the Senate adjourned the pending question was Mr. Buckingham's motion to refer the resolution to the Committee on Foreign Relations. If this is not done, which is not probable, the debate on the subject will ex-

The House passed a resolution to-day to devote the ses sion on Thursday to speeches and in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union. The result of this will be that most of the members will go home to-morrow for the holiday recess, and that the few who have buncombe speeches for their constituents will waste their cloquence on empty benches. Both Houses will adjourn on

In the House, to-day, Mr. Ingersoll of Illinois made a personal explanation in relation to an attack made on him by The New-York Evening Post. He charged that John H. Bryant, brother of the editor of The Post, was his (Ingersoll's) enemy, owing to being removed from the Internal Revenue Collectorship of his District. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Ingersoll charged that J. H. Bryant was a bad man, unworthy of trust, and a defaulter to the Government. Afterward, he modified this declaration by saying he was charged with being in default. This attack on Mr. Bryant brought Messrs. Dawes, Farnsworth, and Judd to their feet in defense of the gentleman, each declaring Mr. J. H. Bryant to be his personal friend, and a man worthy of confidenesteem. To Mr. Dawes, Mr. Ingersoll retorted that Bryanthad probably changed since he had left Massachu setts, while Mr. Farnsworth, Mr. Ingersoll said, showed himself misinformed as to Bryant's original politics, and that his (Farnsworth's) indorsement had no special value. Mr. Ingersoll's reply to Mr. Judd was undig-nified, and will probably be excluded from the report. After providing for the employment of sundry Committee clerks and other routine business, the House proceeded to the order of the day, Mr. Butler's Amnesty bill. The General "farmed" out the floor, and the debate, as a rule, was quite spirited. Mr. Degener of Texas made a strong appeal for general amnesty. He was followed by Judge Bingham in a characteristic speech. He favored a policy like that embodied in the resolutions offered by Mr. Beck of Kentucky, which would exclude from amnesty only those who held national, executive, or legislative offices, or were graduated from either the naval or military academies, and left the army or navy to enter the Rebel service. Members always gather about the eloquent Ohio Repre sentative when speaking, and there was more than the usual attention paidito him to-day. The rencounter so common between him and Butler when any measure of the latter is under discussion, was not wanting, and Mr. Bingham dissected the manner. There was a brief but sharp passage between him and Mr. Butler. After a spirited and earnest effort by Mr. Fitch of Nevada, a number of briefer speeches were made, mostly by Southern Republicans, pro and con. Hamilton of Florida, Prosser of Tennessee, McKee and Barry of Mississippi, Hogo of South Carolina, and Cobb of North Carolina spoke in opposition to amnesty, urging that the constitutional amendments were not respected, life was not safe, opinions not free or respected; that loyal men were in daily peril, and that the disqualified Rebels scornfully declared that they would never ask for amnesty. Mr. Cobb, who was listened to with attention, made an effective speech on that side. The majority of the Southern Representatives speaking today took the same view. Mr. Hoge described the disorder in his district with considerable power, and made an appeal for protection before amnesty was granted. The debate run against the pending bill, and was mainly in opposition to amnesty, or in favor of a more generous measure. Mr. Butler resumed the floor shortly after 4, but gave way for an adjournment. He will deliver his

closing argument after the morning hour to-morrow. Gen. Builer's bill to amend the Bankrupt act provides that nothing in the act establishing a uniform system of bankruptcy, or any act amendatory thereof, shall be held to divest the wife of any bankrupt of her right of dower in her husband's estate. Gen. Butler thinks such legislation necessary, on account of the recent decision of a court in Pennsylvania, which put an opposite interpretation upon the law. The second section of the bill provides that the words "business and trading corporations," wherever they occur in said act, shall be construed and held to include all railroad corporations. In two States decisions have been made by the courts that railroads can be put into bankruptcy the same as other corporations, but in three other States the courts have put a directly opposite construction upon the law; hence the necessity for legislation to declare explicitly

the meaning of the statute.

The inventor of the Gattling gun, which it is claimed is the original mitrailleuse, has been conducting in this city some experimental firing on a vacant lot near the Capitol in presence of Members of Congress and Army and Navy officers. This morning the Naval Committee of the House witnessed the firing, which was conducted with a gun of a model similar to that adopted by the Russian Government. The target was so arranged as to showithe effect of the gun upon a line of men, the automatic [oscillating motion of the piece throwing a stream of balls which swept a space of 30 or 40 yards in length. Mr. Gattling claims that his gun, with the recent improvements he has made, is superior to the mitrailleuse, no cessation of firing being required for the purpose of putting in the cartridges.

All reports about the organization of the Committees of

the next House are mere gossip and guess-work. The only prediction that can be made is, that the nearly equal strength of the Protectionists and "Revenue Reformer." in the next Congress will make it necessary for the Speaker to make up the Ways and Means Committee so that it cannot be controlled by men of extreme views in either direction, in order to preserve the harmony among the Republicans in the house. The Chuirmanship will, therefore, in all probability, be given to a man of moderate Protectionist views, who would not be highly objectionable to reasonable men of either wing of the party. Missouri Republicans who belong to the Gratz Brown wing of the party are gratified to learn that the President has modified his views respecting the political troubles in that State. In conversation of late he has expressed his desire to aid in promoting harmony, and in healing the feud which threatens to throw the State into the hands of the Democracy. It is be lieved there will be no more prescriptions and removals of Republicans from office on account of their having differed from Senator Drake in the late campaign in Mis souri, and that the Republican party will be soon reunited.
Gen. Schenck met with the Committee of Ways and

Means to-day for the last time. The session was almost entirely a social one, the members of the Committee taking occasion to express their appreciation of the Chairman's public services and personal qualities, and their regret at the separation. Mr. Hooper, the second gentleman on the Committee, will act as Chairman during the remainder of the session, and another name will be added to the Committee at the foot of the list. It is believed that an Ohio man will receive the appointment. It is not thought here that any election will be called by the Governor of Ohio to complete Mr. Schenck's term. He is announced to sail for England early in Jan-

The House Committee on Commerce gave a hearing today to the Hon. J. H. Rice of Maine and Wm. B. Farwell of California in favor of a bill, introduced by Gen. Schenck, incorporating the "Atlantic and European Steamship Company." By this bill this Company is to have power to build, construct, and equip vessels, steam or otherwise, to pavigate any navigable waters of the United States, and establish mail steamship lines from the ports of Portland, Boston, New-York, Philadelphia, Bultimore, Norfolk, and other South Atlantic ports, to the principal ports of North Europe, Cadiz, and other ports in Spain, to leading ports in the Modiferranean.

Large powers are asked in the incorporating section, with exemption from taxation of the Company's property, both real and personal. The Postmaster-General is authorized to contract for mail service for a period of fifteen years, mails to be carried semi-weekly, weekly, or semi-monthly, as may be determined upon, to be paid for at the rate of \$300,000 per annum for semi monthly service, \$000,000 for weekly service, or \$900,000 for semi-weekly service, which may be arranged to alternate from the several Atlantic ports named. It may be increased to a tri-weekly or daily mail. The ships are to be of iron, 3,000 tuns burden, and to be at the disposal of Government in time of need. By other provisions it is proposed to grant Custom-House facilities for the appraisement, inspection, &c., of goods forwarded by the

In consequence of the extreme liberality of Congress in paying persons to contest the seats of members from nearly \$250,000 has been taken from the Treasury during the past 15 years, an effort is making to limit the payment of salary to the person whose right to a seat is de termined. A bill to this effect was yesterday offered by Mr. Willard of Vermont. Heretofore it has been an inducement for persons to contest, and the Elections Committee has been the hardest worked in Congress, and has taken up more of the time of the House than any other.

The President has sent to Congress a reply to the House resolution for all the information which may be in the possession of the Department of State relative to the alleged seizure of the schooner Granada of Provincetown, Mass., a regularly licensed vessel, by the British cutter Ida, while lying peaceably at anchor in the harbor of Port Hood, Nova Scotia, under the pretext that said schooner had on board too much provisions for a two months' fishing voyage. The Secretary of State incloses numerous letters and affidavits, one of the former saying that the seizure looks like a wanton and unprovoked out-

that the seizure looks like a wanton and unprovoked of rage.

The Secretary of the Treasury has replied to a House re-solution, recently adopted, calling for information relative to the financial account between the Government and the Pacific railroads. He incloses letters from the Union Pacific Railroad Directors, the Controller of the Treasury and others, and also the opinion of Attorney-General Akerman. After giving the points of the latter, he says that the Department accepts the opinion as a correct interpretation of the law in the case. Hs makes no recommendations.

An impression generally prevails that the [Minister

recommendations,
An impression generally prevails that the [Minister
from Hayti is a colored man, but Gen. Preston is represented by his friends to be a native of Jamaica, and of
pure English parentage.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH BILL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- The following are the provisions of the bill relating to telegraphic communication between the United States and foreign countries, as to-day agreed upon by the Committee of Foreign

All communications established, or that may be reafter be established, between the United States and any foreign country by means of telegraphic or magnetic lines or cables laid in any part thereof, in and over the waters, reefs, islands, shores, and lands within the jurisdiction of the United States, shall be subject to the following conditions, stipulations, and reservations, to wit:

First: The Government of the United States shall be entitled to exercise and enjoy the same or similar privileges with regard to the control and use of any entitled to exercise and enjoy the same or similar privileges with regard to the control and use of any such line or cable that may, by law, agreement, or other-wise, be exercised and enjoyed by any foreign Govern-

dispatches, and communications shall be forwarded in the order in which they are received, except as hereinbefore provided.

Fifth: Before extending and establishing any such line or cable in or over any waters, reefs, islands, shores, and lands within the jurisdiction of the United States, a written acceptance of the terms and conditions imposed by this act shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State by the company, corporation, or party proposing to establish telegraphic communication.

That, subject to the foregoing conditions, stipulations, and reservations, and subject to such grants as have heretofore been made by Congress, to lay and maintain telegraphic collections from the shores of the United States, the consent of Congress is hereby given to the laying and maintaining of telegraphic or magnetic lines or cables between the United States and foreign countries, in and over the waters, reefs, islands, shores, and lands within the jurisdiction of the United States. Any person connected with any company engaged in the transmission of news to foreign countries, who shall, contrary to his duty, disclose or in any way make known or interpret the contents of any message, or any part thereof, and any person who shall injure or destroy any cable or other property of the Company, or interfere with the working, repair, or use of any cable or line connected with such cable, shall, upon conviction thereof, be subjected to a fine not exceeding three years, and the party injured thereby shall have a right of action for damagas. It shall be the duty of the Attorney-General to procedute all persons offending against the provisions of this act in any District Court of the United States.

THE CROPS. MONTHLY REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

AGRICULTURE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- The monthly report

of the Department of Agriculture, in treating of the con-

dittoe of the crops, says:

Corn.—The estimates of the corn product for the past
few years have rarely indicated a very near approach to
a full crop. From a preliminary calculation upon local
returns from 749 counties, the total product of the year is
made to exceed 1.10,000,000 bushels. This would give
about 28 bushels an acre this year, upon the assumed
average of 39,000,000 pacres, against 221 bushels upon a
little more than 37,000,000 acres just year.

Sorghus.—The returns indicate a larger product of
torghum than last year.

Tobocco.—The tobacco crop is comparatively large, and
the estimate of the year will aggregate at least 200,000,000
pounds.

Hay.—The hay crop is less in quantity than that of
1860 by about 15 per cent; the estimate, however, will go
above 20,000,000 tuns, which is little more than the pro-

the estimate of the year points.

Hay.—The hay crop is less in quantity than that of 1620 by about 15 per cent; the estimate, however, will go above 20,000,000 tans, which is little more than the product of 1859. The quality is 50 superior as nearly to make good the loss in quantity.

Polatore.—The production of the year in potatoes is little more than four-fifths of the preceding year, and the aggregate estimate will not vary much from the total number of bashels in 1859—111,000,000, which will afford to each inhabitant four-fifths of the supply of that year.

afford to each inhabitant four-mines of the supply of that Street-Potatocs.—The sweet potato crop has been a large one, showing a more than average yield.

Buckwheat.—The buckwheat crop is somewhat smaller than the preceding one, the loss being in the New-England and Middle States.

Peas and Blans.—Full crops of peas and beans are reported, the former being larger in the South, and the latter in the North.

Flas.—The flax crop will average rather better than last year.

ast year.

Trults.—The present has been a fruitful year for orbards and vineyants in the Eastern, Middle, and West-Fruits.—The present has been a fruitful year for or-chards and vineyasis in the Eastern, Middle, and West-ern States, but less productive in the South, in California, and in Oregon, as to apples and pears. Cramberries do not promise a full supply.

Accounts of Fall-rown wheat and rye are generally fa-

yorable. The condition of wheat at this date is somewhat above an average.

THE TEHUANTEPEC RAILWAY. DEPARTURE OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO

PROSECUTE THE WORK-GROUND TO BE BROKEN ON THE 1ST OF JANUARY.

Washington, Dec. 20.-The United States steamship Nipsic, Lieut. Commander B. Wilson, United States Navy, sailed from Norfolk, Va., yesterday for Minatitian, Mexico, having on board Capt. J. J. Williams, the Chief Engineer of the Tehuantepec Bailway Company. and his corps of Engineers. It is proposed to begin the

Isthmus of Tehuantepec on Jan. 1, 1871. The officers and men of the Nipsic, as well as those of the Kansas and Mayflower of Capt. Schufeldu's Ship Canal Exploring Expedition, now at Minattilan, will be present, under orders from the Navy Department, on the occasion of Arcaking ground. The United States Consul at Minattilan has also been instructed by the State Department to be present on the occasion, and to report the proceedings to that Department.

NATIONAL ASYLUMS FOR DISABLED SOL-DIERS.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-NUMBER OF SOLDIERS SUPPORTED-EXPENSES OF THE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- The Board of Managers of the National Asylums for Disabled Soldiers resumed their session here to-day. From the annual report of the Secretary the following facts are taken:

Custom-House facilities for the appraisement, inspection, &c., of goods forwarded by the lines of the Company in certain forms for quick transif. The last section asks that the Company be allowed to purchase public lands at \$12 5per arce, at the rate of eacres for each tun of mail shipping constructed by or for them, the same to be patented only in warrants of 40,85, and 160 acres, each to be used by the actual settlers, and 160 acres, each to be used by the actual settlers, and 160 acres, each to be located in alternate twenships. The Committee also heard Mr. Barney of New-York and J. Codman(of Boston, who made arguments against any substitute of the Senate.

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The Committee of the Senate.

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The Committee of the Senate of the Chairman, Mr. Wheeler of New-York Persons who are interested in bills pending before this Committee arguments and the speaker added to their troubles yesterday by againg that the Committee would probably have no chance to report this session, owing to the continued absence of the Chairman, Mr. Wheeler of New-York. Persons who are interested in bills pending before this Committee and the long delay, and the Speaker's table.

Judge Lawrence of Ohio is engaged in preparing a report to accomplish will be to call up the metion to reconsider the vote by which the House refused, last Juar by the concert halls where musical many and christian associations, and not yet sold by them, for the interest of the senate Southern Pacific Railroad thill now on the Speaker's table.

Judge Lawrence of Ohio is engaged in preparing a report to accompany his bill, now before the Appropriations committee, of which he loss a committee, and the continued and the continued and the content of the content of the content of the continued and the content of the content of

adjourned to hold its next meeting at the Southern

Branch, near Hamption, Virginia, in March next. The Board of Managers have made provisions for the ton, Va., about the sth of Pebruary. This Asylum is intended for the reception of disabled colored soldiers, and such consumptive patients as prefer a milder climate than can be had at one of the three other asylums. The building formerly occupied by the Hampton Female Seminary has been purchased by the Board, and is fitting up to accommodate 400 soldiers.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The following nominations were sent to the Senate to-day: Robert S. Chilton of the District of Columbia to be Conval at Clifton, Canada. Canada. Jasper Smith of the District of Columbia to be Consul at Funchal, Island of Madeira. Thomas F. Purnell to be United States Marshal for the Western Dis-trict of Texas.

DEFRAUDING THE REVENUE.

THE ARREST OF GEN. RAMSEY OF JERSEY CITY-

Two STORIES.

The following account of the arrest of Gen. Ramsey at Pitteburgh, on a charge of defrauding the Revenue, was received yesterday at Jersey City, by telegraph, from the Editor of The Pittsburgh Commercial: A Philadelphia detective discovered, in September last, a cargo of tobacco, shipped from Gen. Ramsey's establishment in Jersey City, among which were 37 barrels bearing counterfeit stamps. Ramsey was then arrested, and some of his books were seized and placed in the hands of United States Attorney Swoop. An indictnent was found in the United States Court at Williamsport against Ramsey, but he obtained his re-lease by promising to furnish the requisite amount of bail. He failed to do so within the specified time, and was again arrested, and taken to Pittsburgh on Saturday last.

was again arrested, and taken to Pritiburga on Saturday last.

The statement of the friends of the accused, in Jersey City, is as follows: Five months ago Gen. Ramsey purchased a quantity of tobacco from a dealer in New-York, and shipped it direct to Scranton, Pa. The tobacco had reached Scranton, and was lying in the freight-house, awaiting removal, when United States Marshal Brooks discovered that the stamps were counterfels. Officers were sent to Jersey City, where Ramsey was arrested. The officers asked the name of the dealer from whom he had obtained the tobacco, but he would not divulge it, and was taken to Williamsport, and thence to Pittsburgh. Upon examination he was held to bail, which he furnished, and subsequently returned home. His case was called before the day upon which he was informed that it was to be tried, and his failure to appear led to his second arrest.

wise, be exercised and enjoyed by any foreign Government whatever.

Second: The citizens of the United States shall enjoy the same privileges as to the payment of rates for the transmission of messages as are enjoyed by the citizens of the most favored nations.

Third: The transmission of dispatches shall be made in the following order: 1. Departments of State under such regulations as may be agreed upon by the Government interested. 2. Dispatches in the telegraph service. 3. Private dispatches.

Fourth: The lines of any such cable shall be kept open to the public for the daily transmission of market and commercial reports and intelligence, and all messages, dispatches, and communications shall be forwarded in the order in which they are received, except as herein before provided.

The transmission of market and communications shall be forwarded in the order in which they are received, except as herein before provided.

The transmission of market and came from the field with the rank of Major-General by brevet.

GEO. Ramsey was well known as an officer of volunteers in the war, and came from the field with the rank of Major-General by brevet.

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ARRIVAL OF THE CHINA STEAMER AT SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—The steamship Japan, from China and Japan, three days behind time, entered in this port this evening, at 7½ o'clock. In passing North Point she ran into a vessel anchored in the order in which they are received, except as herein. ing North Point she ran into a vessel anchored in the stream with a tremendous crash, and then, drifting a short distance, she came in collision with the British ship Marion, carrying away her bowsprit and forerigging. The Marion finally came to suchor off Jackson-st. wharf. The Japan's stearing gear was disabled, and she appears to have sustained considerable damage otherwise. Tugs have gone to her assistance. The bark D. C. Murray, overdue from Honolulu, also arrived this evening.

> BROOKLYN INTERNAL REVENUE RETURNS. The Banks and Gas Companies in Brooklyn who the following returns for November:

		Total Tax.
Brooklep Bank-Capital	\$35,000	******
Deposita	895,264	
Circulation		#339 20
Long Island B'k-Capital	98,000	- Anna Cara
Deposits	765,074	359 95
Mechanics' Bank-Caffital	250,000	
Deposits	1.345,311	706 38
Fulton Bank-Capital	150.000	
Average deposits	248,750	166 14
Commercial Bank-Capital	100,000	
Average deposits	140,000	100 00
Mechanics' and Traders', Greenpoint-Capital		
Deposits	177,120	222 63
Brooklyn Trust CoDeposits	1,756,539	731 89
Brooklyn Gas Light CoFeet	31,285,500	7,821 27
People's Gas Light CoFeet	7,679,083	1,919 77
Citizens' Gas Light Co Feet	13,247,600	3.311.90
Williamsburgh Gas Light Co Feet	9,584,800	2,396 20
Flathugh Gas Light Co Feet	497.841	74.00
Umon Gas Light Co., E. N. Y Feet	282,000	28 20

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES. Ex-Gov. Letcher is much better, and is no danger.

. A Fair for the benefit of the wounded soldiers
German armies was opened last evening in Philadelphia.

....It is rumored in Havana that a Spanish gun-

....The Philadelphia Commercial Exchange cele-bratel the completion of their new Hall by a grand promenade concert and hall last evening. . Rothermel's great painting of the Battle of thur was unrailed last evening in the Philadelphia Academy of There was a large attendance.

"The brig Lena, Capt. Nicol, from Jamaica for ladelphia, went ashore on Cape Henlopen Beach, yesterlay, and secilately filled with water. She is loaded with logwood, and is in-

The mills at Salem, Oregon, which are run by water, have all been stopped by the cold weather. The thermometer at Salem at samints on Monday was 11° below the freeding point, and at Hamilton I' below zeros. below zero.

Six hundred feet, or one-fourth of the famous Miss, near Salt Lake, City, owned by a Mr. Woodman, was self by, for \$110,000 in gold. Measur. Mershall & Carter, attorneys.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH. ... The Engle Smelting Works, at Hamilton, No-

In Philadelphia yesterday, Robert Smith shot man Osborn, wounding him severely. Smith was arrested. One of the Steam Woolen Company's buildings chill, N. Y., was damaged by fire yesterday \$6,000 insured.

... Dennis Mitchell of Troy, while quarreling with

y named John O'Nell, on Monday evening, was shot by the money and probably die.

Patrick Drake died in Hartford, on Monday, the character deploy the setting of a distorated steadler. while inholog chlorosom during the setting of a dislocated simulter. The acceptation on a fault-level by on experienced physician, and in less than the normal quantity under similar circums avecs.

than the normal quantity under animate on flagman on the Hudson littles Radward age for wer instantly willed, at Hadson, by the lightning express points fourth. Meaning afternoon. The bady was carried nearly a note on the row statcher, and was shockingly sampled. Thomas A. Werd, a professional bolanic physical solution of Sale actual formerly of include as a street, performing the charge of produce a sharton, at in default of six of six of various mitted to full. The occurs I has served a term in Antonia prison for perform.

.. A careful investigation will be made by the

not exceed \$6.000.

A fire occurred at Sycamore, DeKalb County,

A life to destrict the Symbol at \$100,000. The pro-cipal lowers are J. C. Waterman, \$100.000 isomed \$10,000; 100 J. S. Waterman, \$15.000, inputed \$12,000. May re, Watern and Eliboud 1600. \$2.000. Insured. There were a number of on a lee lorger.

PRIVATEERING.

REPORT AND DISCUSSION IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE INVIOLABILITY OF PRI-VATE PROPERTY IN TIME OF WAR-THE MA-

JORITY OPPOSED TO ANY ACTION. The Chamber of Commerce held an adjourned neeting last evening at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association to consider the report of Committee No. 4 on the subject of the "Inviolability of Private Property at Sea in time of War." Wm. E. Dodge presided, and among the prominent persons who took part in the discussion were A. A. Low, Jonathan Sturges, Geo. Opdyke, Samuel B. Roggles, Sinclair Tousey, Prosper M. Wetmore, and Jackson S. Schultz. Mr. Opdyke, on behalf of the Committee, moved the adoption of their report,

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. Commerce and navigation are, emphatically, the main springs of the prosperity of our country, and the importance of our intercourse with fereign nations can hardly be exaggerated. But in order to realize the full benefits of commerce it should be free from all unneces-sary restrictions, and, above all, from the fatal disturb-

benefits of commerce it should be free from all unnecessary restrictions, and, above all, from the fatal disturbances to which it is still exposed in time of war. As far as possible, private property is not unlested upon the land—the time when it was deemed right and expedient to seize, in the enemy's country, what was portable, and to burn and destrey what was not, has gene by; among Christian mations private war has been expicited upon the land; but not so epon lie sea. There it still continues to afflict and disgrace humanity. Even private ering, which, in the labguage of John Quincy Adams, is "a system of licensed robbery, bearing all the most atrocious character of privacy," is not yet generally abolished, and all the great maritime Powers still chim and use the right of seizure and destruction of merchant ships and cargoes by their public amed vossels.

The principle of freedom of all private property at sea, though in the earlier part of the last century already theoretically maintained, found its first official acknowledgment in the treaty between the United States and Prussia, concluded in the year 1785 by Frederick the Great and Benjamin Franklin. But this noble example failed to enlist followers. The justness of the principle was readily admitted by nearly all the Governments of Europe is w many even its adoption was advocated; more particularly by these of France and the Hanseatic Republics; but no essential changes were introduced into the usages of maritime war. It retained its berbarous features until after the Crimean struggle, when, in April, 1286, the Governments of Europe and America, with the exception of Spain, Mexico, and the United States, agreed to observe the following principles as rules of maritime law:

First: Privateering is and shall remain abelished.

maritime law:

First: Privateering is and shall remain abelished.

Second: The neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with
the exception of contraband of war.

Third: Neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, are not liable to capture under the enemy's hand of war, are not liable to capture under the enemy silag.

Fourth: Blockades, in order to be binding, must be ef-

fective.

The United States was invited to become a party to this

The United States was invited to become a party to this treaty, and at once gave the subject its most serious con-sideration. The second, third, and fourth popositions it was not only willing to accept, but "most anxious to see incorporated into the code of maritime law;" but linked

sideration. The second, taird, and fourit propositions to see incorporated into the code of maritime law;" but linked to the first proposition, abolishing privateering, and the alternative being that the four propositions must be taken altogether or rejected altogether, without modification, the United States Government, justly indisposed to surrender a right without an equivalent, hesitated to sign the treaty.

The United States hesitated to become a party to the Paris treaty, simply because it did not go far enough; and though, as unforeseen subsequent events have shown, it would have been well for us to have taken what we might have sot, yet the motives which prompted the refusal command respect. Our Ministers at the courts in Europe were directed not to conclude any treaty relating to maritime law without further instructions as to the right of blockade. These instructions were never given, and the matter remained in abeyance until after the war between France and Austria, when it was revived; the agitation beginning in Germany, the Bremen Chamber of Commerce taking the lead, and working with such energy, that the entire commercial working with such energy among those who demanded it, and it can nardly be doubted that the noble principle first suggested by the United States, advocated by a number of Commerce was early among those who demanded it, and it can nardly be doubted that the noble principle first suggested by the United States, advocated by a number of its greatest statesmen—Jefferson, Adams, Clay, Marcy, Seward, and others—would now grace the code of maritime law if, in 180, the then Government of the United States had seen fit to act in conformity with the views of its enlightened predecessors. But, unfortunately, this was not the case.

The Parls treaty of 1856 was a step in the right di

Europe, the one between France and Austria in 1859, that between Austria and Prussia in 1856, and the one now raging between Germany and France, no privateers have been employed, because the belligerents all are parties to and bound by the Paris declaration.

Driven from the proud position our shipping occupied ten years ago, and, with the load of war debt on our shoulders, unable to build as cheaply as it is done in Europe, while, on the other hand, our navigation laws prevent us from acquiring cheap vessels from abroad, we may well feel annoyed and perplexed. Nor is the keen regret at the failure of the efforts of 1850 much lessened by England's sharing it with us, insemuely as the loss of our shipping and the unfortunate Alabama claims are due to one and the same cause.

The Committee deem the present time opportune for moving in the matter, because they may confidently look for an early termination of the war in France; and are warranted in the belief that Germany, as one of the conditions of peace, will demand the perfect immunity from capture of all private property upon the ocean in time of war; that the right of depredation on private property shall be deemed a wrong no lenger to be tolerated; and that not privateering merely, but all war against private property at sea, is and shall remain abolished.

Germany, since the promulgation of Mr. Marcy's great State paper, has acted on the wise and humane principle that the endsot war should be attained without brutality; and, prior to the war with Austria in 186, and again, on the eve of the present war with France, she decreed that merchant ships and their cargoes should not be captured or molested in any way by her armed vessels. Austria reciprocated; she also abstailed from depredations on German commerce. France, in the war with Austria in Sec.

merchant ships and their cargoes shound not be captured or molested in any way by her armed vessels. Austria reciprocated; she also abstained from depredations on German commerce. France, in the war with Austria in 1850, did not commit the wrong of capturing defenseless trading vessels; but, in the present war with Germany, she is again guitty of the crime, and will be called to account for it.

It does not seem presumptuous to say that the satisfactory disposal of the great question, whether or not individual property on the ocean must be sarred in time of war, now depends on the United States and Germany; and there is justness and beauty in the thought that the two great speople who first advocated a noble 'principle universal acknowledgment.

The Committee, in conclusion, respectfully submit for re-adoption the resolutions of the Chamber of March 5, 1850, to wit:

Beolosi. That the perfect immunity from capture of all private property upon the ocean in time of war is demanded by an endiphenel seminate of Justice and the improved spirit of civilization, not less than by a due condeiration of the best interest of common, not less than by a due condeiration of the best interest of common.

Reoferd, That he Government of the Linked States he respectfully solleids to take such measures as it may deem it, to have the principle expressed in the preceding resolution incorporated in the sode of martine law.

THE DISCUSSION.

Samuel B. Ruggles seconded the motion of Mr. Opdyke,

Samuel B. Rusgles seconded the motion of Mr. Opdyke, and said that he had labored fill his life for the promotion of good feeling among matigns. He would ask if the Committee would insert in the resolution that private property be involable except in cases of extreme public; overruling necessity.

and said that he had labored fill his life for the promotion of good feeling among matigns. He would ask if the Committee would insert in the resolution that private property be inviolable except in cases of extreme public; overruling necessity.

Leopold Bierwirth said that he did not see the necessity of providing for any such cases. He thought they might put aside the fear of overruling necessity arising.

A. A. Low thought we had learned that nations had come to be governed by what was their own interest and not by any sentimental feeling. It seemed to him not exactly the time, when we have large claims against England for losses inflicted upon us by privateers furnished to the Confederates, to forego the only arm we can make effective against such a nation as Great Britain. We have no navy, he said, to successfully cope with the navy of England, but with what could be improvised we could cope with them, and I am not sure that it is wise to adopt a report which would lead us to forego the advantage of an instrument that has been made formidable hitherto.

Samuel B. Rungles said that he was not in favor of the system of privateering, but exigencies were always likely to arise, and for these he would provide. England in 1805 had swept the occan, so that no vessel crossed the equator that did not fly a fing friendly to her. He feared the time might come in which the whole Continent of Europe will be arrayed against England and America, and that we should have to confront the power of Continental Europe, and for that exigency he would provide. He wished that the nation night mubitain undiminished its power over the seas. He hoped that final action in the matter would be postponed unit our effects with the England have been finally adjusted.

A. A Parker thought that England was anxious to settle the Alabama claims, and thut she feared the Americans would retailate if they ever hed an opportunity. When those claims were settled, he would us in favor of the measures proposed by the Committee.

Mr. Ophyke said that

Charles Marshan said that he had noticed a proposition in the new spapers to send provisions to the starving inhabitants of France, and moved that the Chamber of Commerce take the infrintive in the matter, as such action would not be without precedent in their history. Mr. Ruggles moved as an amendment that the matter be referred to the Executive Committee, which was concurred in, and the meeting then adjourned.

The opening of the Wallkill Valley Railroad was , celebrated yesterday at New Paitz by addresses, music, a procession, and a banquet. There was an excursion train from this city, and a large attendance from the aureunding country.